

unparalleled courage under fire and Sergeant First Class Hawks has certainly demonstrated that to his fellow soldiers.

Sergeant First Class Hawks showed his bravery and patriotism to all during a 14-hour battle in 115-degree heat while stationed in Afghanistan on July 25, 2005. That morning on combat patrol in the Oruzgan province, his unit encountered and gave chase to a large number of enemy fighters. Our soldiers soon found themselves facing an intense volley of fire from machine guns, small arms and rocket-propelled grenades.

Without regard for his own safety, Sergeant First Class Hawks came out from behind cover to draw and return enemy fire while directing his unit into position to more effectively engage the enemy. He also directed fire from Apache gunships overhead. He passed up a chance to move to a safer position and insisted on staying in the best vantage point over the enemy.

"There were times when some of the guys thought that we weren't going to make it," Sergeant First Class Hawks was quoted as saying after the ordeal. "But I was thinking, you may not, but I am coming out of this. That was my whole thought process."

SFC Larry Hawks's service is continuing proof that there is no finer fighting man on the face of the Earth than the American soldier. Accordingly, a ceremony was held last December at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School, in Fort Bragg, NC, for him to receive this honored award.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Sergeant First Class Hawks for the many sacrifices he has made to our country. We Kentuckians are honored to know and be among such heroes.

I also ask unanimous consent that the full article from the Brownsville, KY, Edmonson News of March 19, 2009, detailing SFC Larry Hawks's service and the actions that led to the awarding of his Silver Star, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Edmonson News, Mar. 19, 2009]
SFC LARRY HAWKS AWARDED SILVER STAR
FOR DEFENDING COMRADES

Edmonson County native Larry Hawks, a 1988 graduate of Edmonson County High School, was recently awarded the nation's third-highest honor for valor in combat, the Silver Star.

Sergeant First Class Hawks's extraordinary acts of heroism while engaged in a military operation in Afghanistan were witnessed by his comrades.

Hawks, his wife Callie, and their four children Tristan, 10; Lorin, 8; Addie, 6; and Aidan, 4, reside in Salemburg, N.C.

In a letter to superiors, it was explained by Sfc. Donald Grambusch that during a 14-hour battle in 115-degree heat, and taking enemy fire from every angle, Hawks, with disregard for his own personal safety, returned fire during their ATV movement which enabled

other ATVs in the group to reach sufficient cover. Hawks then directed Apache gunships fire onto the enemy, while using his own weapon to defend their position.

Hawks was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross for his bravery.

In addition to the Silver Star, Hawks has attained a long list of accolades and awards throughout his distinguished military career.

During his tenure of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division Hawks served in Panama, Egypt, Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1992 Hawks was assigned to the XVII Airborne Corps' Long Range Surveillance Co. He also served with the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne).

Hawks was featured in an article by Doug Clark in The Sampson Independent, a newspaper in Clinton, North Carolina, on January 25.

Hawks is the son of Tony and Pat Hawks of Wingfield.

His grandparents are the late Larmie and Pernie Hawks, and the late Lee Elmore and Lula Elmore of Wingfield.

TRIBUTE TO JERRILYN DYER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated philanthropist from my home State of Kentucky, Jerrilyn Dyer. Mrs. Dyer is well known in her community for her bright smile and comforting personality.

Mrs. Dyer has contributed countless hours to Kentucky through her volunteer work, including helping at the Pattie A. Clay Hospital Gift Shop and with the Home Meals Delivery service, helping to better the lives of so many over the years. In addition to her work in Kentucky, she was also well known for her volunteer work in Indiana particularly in Madison County.

Along with all her volunteer work, Jerrilyn is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother and finds time to travel with her husband of 49 years, Jack, and enjoys spending time with her two children and four grandchildren.

Recently, the Richmond Register in Richmond, Kentucky, published an article detailing Mrs. Dyer's service and accomplishments. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jerrilyn Dyer and her service to the Commonwealth.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Richmond Register, Mar. 28, 2009]
JERRILYN DYER: A NON-STOP VOLUNTEER
FORCE

(By Ronica Shannon)

Jerrilyn Dyer, 67, and her husband Jack moved to Madison County from central Indiana in 1967 when Jack accepted a teaching position at the Eastern Kentucky University.

She has been an active part of the community in several areas ever since. Jack began his doctoral studies and the couple moved to Lexington in 1969, only to return to Richmond in the fall of 1989.

The two graduated from high school in Spencer, Ind. Jerrilyn graduated from Kentucky Christian College with a teaching degree in 1989.

She refers to herself as 'a late bloomer.' Jerrilyn is involved with several volunteer organizations in the community including Home Meals Delivery, which delivers midday meals to homebound residents and hosts the annual "Empty Bowls Friday."

She also is a member of the Madison County Republican Women's Club, which is affiliated with the National Federation of Republican Women. The organization supports the Republican Party and Republican candidates.

"I have served in many capacities for the party and worked as a poll officer," she said. "I feel strongly about voting and each citizen's duty to do so. It's not only a responsibility, but a privilege to participate in our government. There's great satisfaction in helping make our community environment a better place in which to live."

"We need to continually support competent people in our community leadership," she said.

No matter the circumstances, Jerrilyn always seems to have a smile on her face and laughter in her voice. How does she do it? Simple. She thrives at what she does.

"I love volunteering time and effort to several causes," she said. "It always blesses me more than what I give. Home Meals Delivery, for instance, is a program started in 1980 when there was a need. It's not the federally funded program started by the government, but is a locally endowed program relying on volunteers. I have been involved with it for about 15 years since I first heard of it at a club meeting. I am currently serving on the board."

Jerrilyn also is a volunteer at the Pattie A. Clay Hospital Gift Shop and has seen the expansion of the shop over the years.

"It's a lot of fun selling gift items and talking with all the customers who many times just need a friendly listener," she said.

Proceeds from the shop benefit the hospital needs.

"Just recently we were able to donate several thousand dollars for the new East Wing Project," she said. "I've been a member of the Richmond Woman's Club for several years and have participated with the ladies on several community projects including Habitat for Humanity, New Opportunity School for Women, The Salvation Army and (local) veterans (organizations)."

Aside from volunteering, Jerrilyn also has worked as a secretary for several businesses and organizations, including: Westinghouse in Bloomington, Ind.; Indiana State University and 8th Avenue Baptist Church and at Christian Student Fellowship on the University of Kentucky Campus.

"I've also done substitute teaching and been a teacher's aide, and a merchandiser for Gibson Greetings," she said.

Jerrilyn and her husband will celebrate 49 years of marriage this year. The two have a son who is a high school basketball coach (honored as coach of the year in his conference this year) and he teaches in Bristol, Tenn. Their daughter has taught special education for years and is a teacher consultant for six counties, including Shelby County, where she is a resident.

"We have four adorable grandchildren—two girls and two boys," she said "It is truly great being grandparents."

She and her husband enjoy traveling and have made it all over the United States.

Throughout the years, she and her husband have visited all 50 states, all the presidential libraries, all 30 Major League Baseball parks and all the Kentucky state resort parks.

They also spend a lot of time shopping for their grandchildren and playing cards with friends, she said.

The church also plays a large role in the Dyers' life.

She and her husband have been active members of Gardenside Christian Church in Lexington, where their children grew up.

"Over the years we've been Sunday School teachers, youth sponsors, Bible School leaders, etc.," Jerrilyn said. "Currently, we're on the Missions and Benevolence Committees and members of a Sunday School Class. I've served in a Women's Circle and Jack is on the board as an elder and deacon."

So why is volunteering in her community so important to Jerrilyn? "There is much to be said for volunteering in a community," she said. "It can promote so much good will among the citizens and can give a special spirit of unity and pride. Volunteers can get so many projects done that otherwise wouldn't be possible using only its paid staff. And, of course, the volunteer probably gets back more than he or she gives."

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL JASON G. PAUTSCH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is with great sadness that I rise today to call attention to a fallen hero. Cpl Jason G. Pautsch, a 20-year-old soldier from Davenport, Iowa, died on April 10, 2009 in Mosque, Iraq, of injuries sustained when an explosive device detonated near his vehicle. My thoughts and prayers go out to his parents, David Pautsch and Teri Johnson, his siblings Jared, Jacob, Josef, and Jenna, and all his friends and family.

Jason was the squadron leader in the Army's 4th Infantry Division and a graduate of Davenport North High School. Graduating a semester early so he could join the Army, Jason was deployed to Iraq last September. His family has a history of military service and his older brother Jacob is currently serving in the Army's 82nd Airborne.

Always a thrill-seeker, Jason enjoyed hunting and racing BMX bikes in his free time. His high school football coach describes him as a strong young man who was passionate about everything he did. Jason had an excellent sense of humor, was a tremendous competitor, and showed dedication in all he did.

Jason told his father David, he "believed in what he was doing" and his sense of patriotic duty is inspirational. I express the greatest respect and sincere gratitude on behalf of all Americans for Jason's commitment to our country. His is a true hero, and his sacrifice will not be forgotten.

RWANDA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, while Congress was in recess, Rwanda commemorated the 15-year anniversary of the genocide. Fifteen years ago, a deliberate, centrally planned, and organized campaign of mass murder and rape was set in motion, which displaced millions and eventually took the lives of over 800,000 people. People were killed simply because of their ethnicity or political beliefs or an unwillingness to participate in the violence. The un-

speakable acts of terror that ensued over those months in 1994 shocked the world, and yet the international community, including the United States, failed to act. The promises of "never again" rang hollow.

Fifteen years later, Rwandans have come a long way to repair their lives and rebuild their institutions. I am pleased that the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the Gacaca Courts continue to work to bring to justice those guilty of the most egregious crimes. Accountability is an essential step to promote healing for the survivors and to prevent a return to conflict in Rwanda. At the same time, I have been deeply moved that many survivors of this terror have been willing to forgive and live side by side with many of those who participated in it. Continuing to foster tolerance and openness, and ensure there is sufficient political space for dissent and discussion is critical to maintain future stability in Rwanda.

As a Washington Post editorial recently noted, while the current Rwanda government has made impressive "accomplishments in righting its country and improving basic services it continues to be intolerant of criticism." According to the State Department's reports and those of non-governmental organizations, there is a worrying pattern of repression in Rwanda against political opponents and civil society. Over the long run, suppression and intimidation can undermine security rather than protect it, forcing healthy debates into illicit channels, and casting doubt on the legitimacy of the prevailing order. If this pattern continues, it could intensify Rwanda's ethnic and social tensions, and ultimately lead to future conflicts.

Rwanda has become a good friend and partner of the United States over the years, and our countries have worked together on many important joint initiatives. Most notably, they have become a leader on the African continent in responding to mass atrocities and contributing to peacekeeping operations. This is deeply inspiring given all that they have gone through, and we should continue to work with them to prevent future genocide and mass atrocity. However, we fail to be true friends to the people of Rwanda when we turn a blind eye to patterns of repression in their country, or fail to raise our voices in support of civil and political rights. As we remember those tragic events 15 years ago and commemorate those who perished, we should resolve to pay close attention to the present. The people of Rwanda deserve more than our regret; they deserve our support for their efforts to build a more just, more free and more secure future.

HOMELESS EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND RAPID TRANSITION TO HOUSING ACT

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the introduction of S. 808, the

Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act or "HEARTH" Act, which I am very proud to cosponsor. The HEARTH Act is a landmark housing bill as it significantly improves Federal programs designed to end and prevent the tragedy of homelessness that afflicts too many American individuals and families.

Before I offer some comments on the bill, I praise Senator JACK REED for his long-term commitment and hard work on addressing homelessness. Senator REED has been a longtime leader in housing issues and I value the strong partnership we have had over the past several years. I also applaud his staff, led by Kara Stein, who has worked tirelessly and patiently over the past 8 years on homeless legislation. Further, I would be remiss to not mention the work of our former colleague, Senator Wayne Allard, who also was heavily involved in this legislation before he retired from this Chamber. Finally, I thank Nan Roman of the National Alliance to End Homelessness and Dr. Dennis Culhane of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice who have provided us invaluable insights and research on homelessness that helped guide our policy work.

Over 20 years ago, the Federal Government took its first major step in addressing the plight of homelessness through the enactment of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, which was later renamed the McKinney-Vento Act after the death of Representative Bruce Vento who was an early advocate of the law. When this comprehensive law was enacted back in 1987, some legislators thought that homelessness was a temporary problem that could be solved in a few years. Unfortunately, this was clearly not the case. Despite billions of private and public dollars spent on the homeless, millions of veterans, families, disabled, and children have and continue to experience the sad tragedy of living without a home.

Fortunately, homelessness is not a hopeless situation. As the former chair and current ranking member of the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that funds most of the Federal homeless programs, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle—especially Senators BARBARA MIKULSKI and PATTY MURRAY—to ensure resources were being provided to the appropriate programs. This is an important task and I am proud of being in position to make a difference.

We learned that throwing money at the problem was not going to solve homelessness but that a smarter, more effective approach was needed. Specifically, we learned that providing permanent supportive housing was the key component in solving homelessness, especially those considered to be chronically homeless. Research led by Dr. Culhane found that chronically homeless received housing primarily through regular, long-term use of the emergency shelter system. Serving the